CACTUS AND SUCCULENT JOURNAL

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Young Cactus Wrens on *Opuntia parryi near* Claremont, Calif. They were not "stuck up." Photo by the late Wright Pierce.

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THE CACTACEAE

All orders for Britton and Rose are shipped and if you have not received your set please notify us at once. Edition A can still be obtained at a special price to members of the Society. We have arranged to make a set available to every member who is interested in obtaining one. A few used sets are available and terms can be arranged to suit all requirements. We can ship you a complete set immediately. Write for details now. Address: Att. Scott Haselton, Cactus Society, Box 101, Pasadena, Calif.

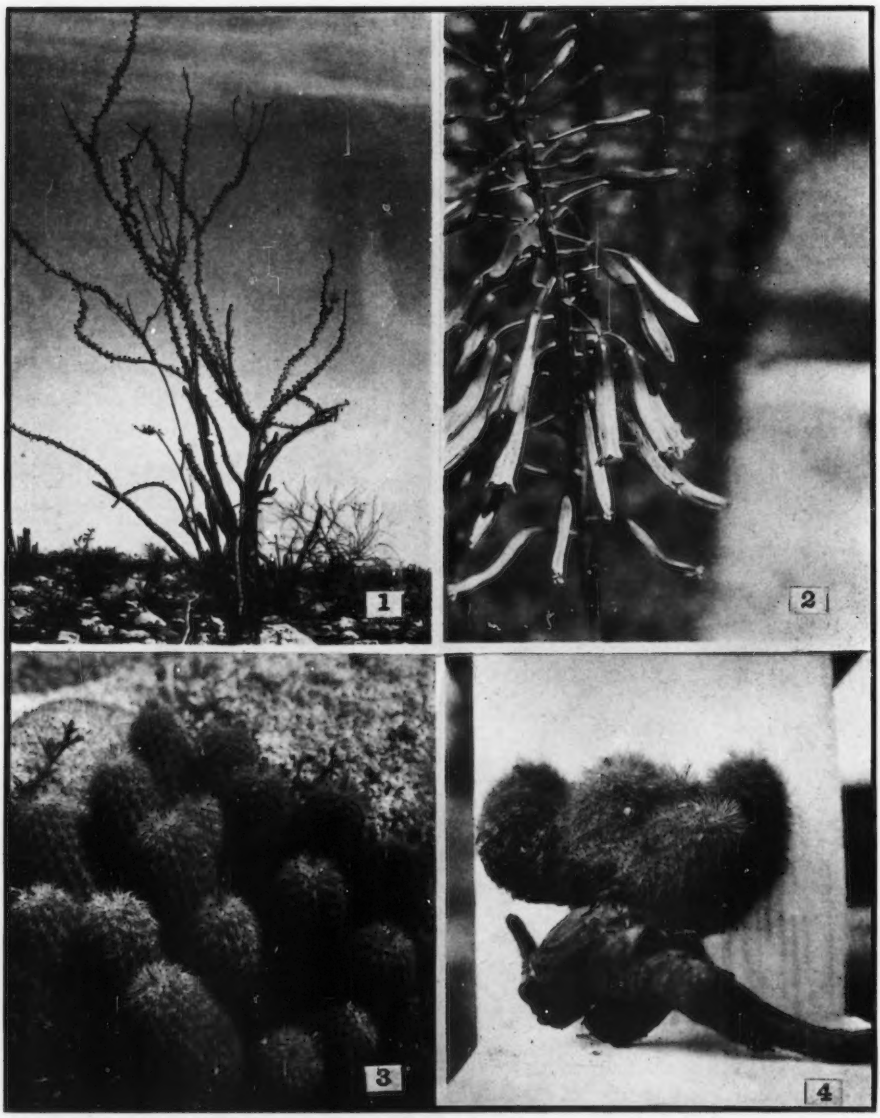
CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETINGS

September 4, 5 and 6

Labor Day field camping trip into Lower California, Mexico. This is an event of great interest owing to the rich flora to be encountered and the district's scenic beauties. Write to Howard E. Gates, Anaheim, Calif., for information sheet.

Crested plant of *Ferocactus wislizenii* in flower.
Photo by Stuart John of a plant in Robinson Cactus Gardens, Dallas

Harrisia martini grown by H. Wm. Menke, Los Angeles
Faucaria tigrina. Photo by Paul L. Miller, Seattle, Wash.



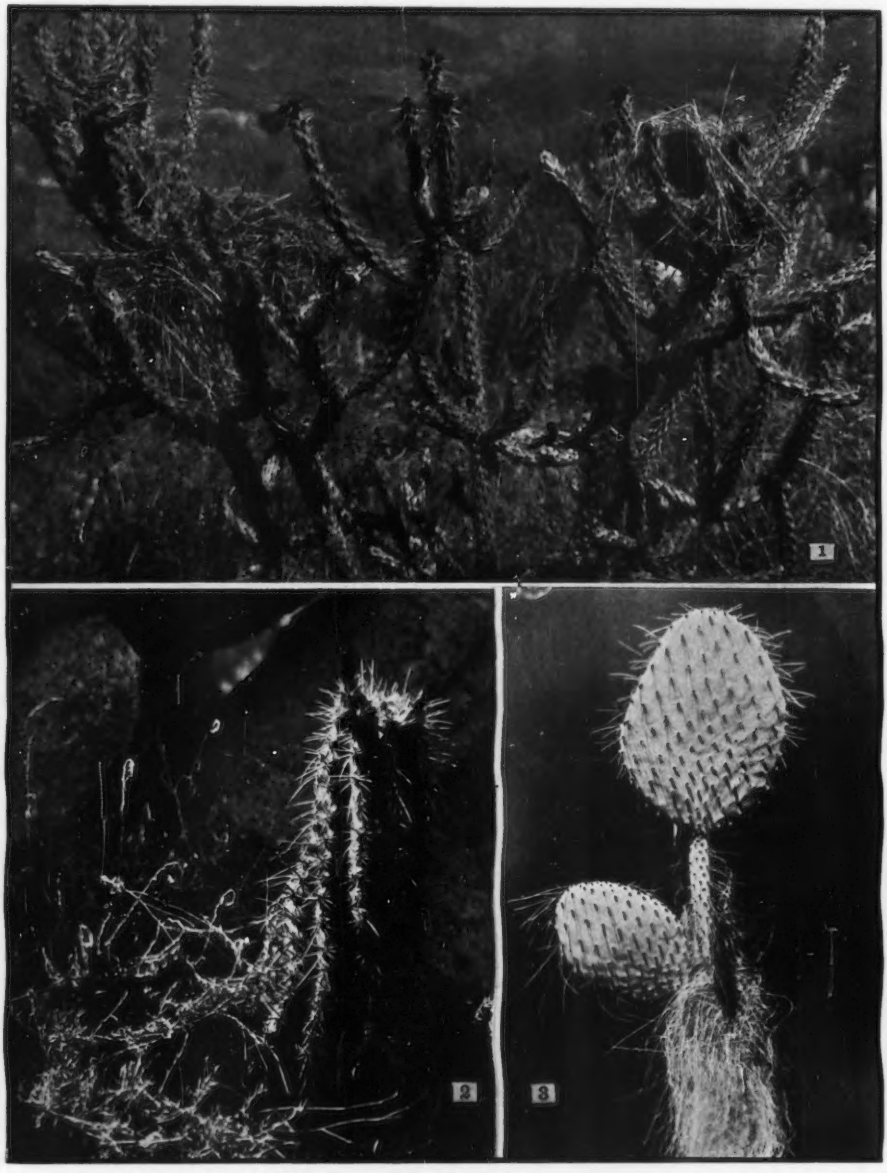
UPPER: Plant and flowers of the Baja California Ocotillo, *Fouquieria peninsularis*.
LOWER: *Echinocereus sciurus* in San Jose del Cabo, Baja California. The large tuberous root is shown in No. 4. Photographs by E. M. BAXTER.

A landscape in Baja California featuring *Agave shawii*. In the center of the picture, in front of the century plants, is a flowering specimen of an unidentified Dudleya. Photo by WRIGHT PIERCE.

Crassula multicava flowering in Michigan. A well potted succulent arranged by Mrs. Wm. J. Fickinger.

Acanthocereus pentagonus is a common plant with an uncommon flower. A spread of eight inches, and a delightful fragrance are properties of this white flower.

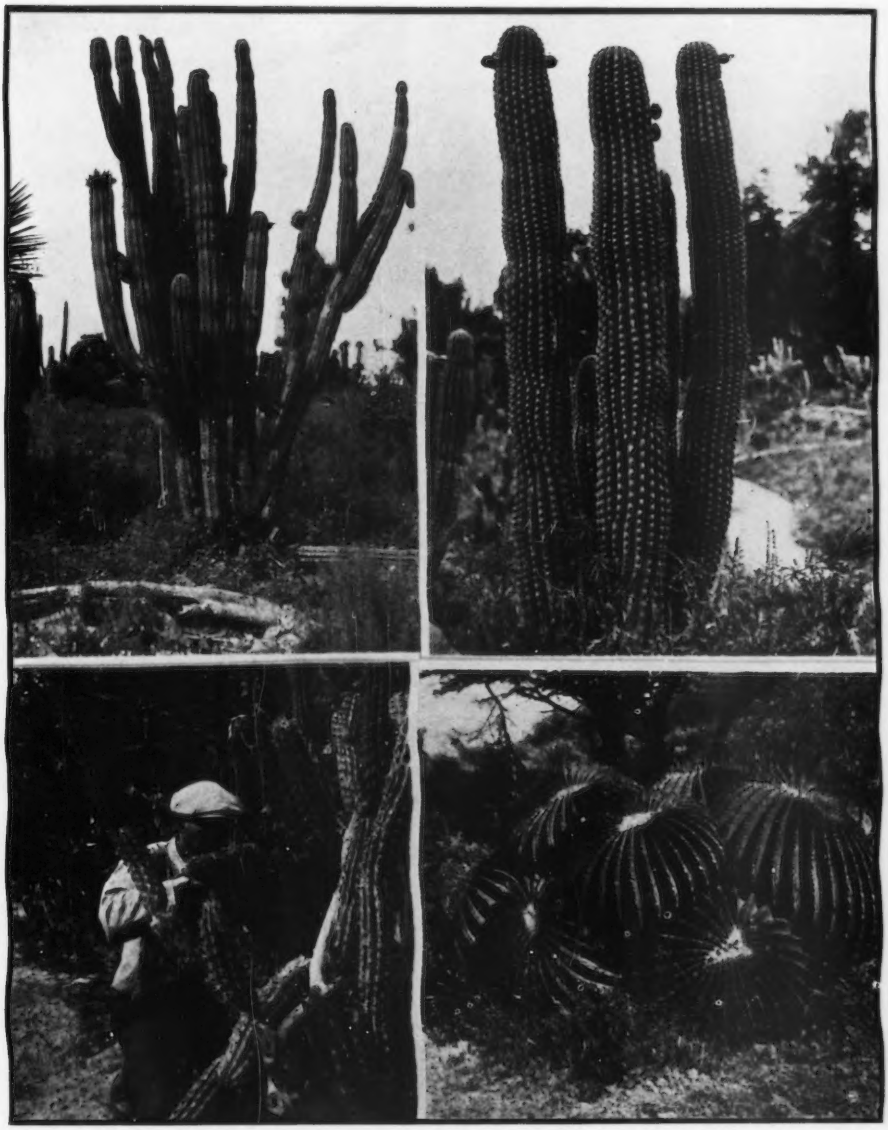
Aeonium haworthii in flower. This and the photograph of *Acanthocereus* are the artistic work of our late member. H. Wm. Menke.



1. Cactus Wren's nests in Opuntia parryi. Note the two dummy nests on the left. Photo by the late Wright Pierce, who was a friend of all cactus lovers.

2. *Echinocereus arizonicus* growing in its type locality. Photo by R. H. Peebles.

3. *Opuntia pailana* growing in McCabe's Cactus Gardens. San Diego, Calif.



1. and 2. *Lemaireocereus treleasei* growing in Oaxaca, Mexico. Photos by J. S. Boyles. 3. *Machaerocereus gummosus*, Lower California, Mexico. G. A. Frick is the disinterested on-looker! Photo by E. M. Baxter. 4. *Echinocactus ingens* crest photographed by J. S. Boyles in Mexico.

Leptocereus leonii (From Britton and Rose Vol. II, p. 78)

Cuban Cacti

La Habana, Cuba.

Dear Mr. Haselton:

I am so thankful to you all for the benevolent assistance you have given me and am willing to correspond to your kindness and stimulus in my study of the Cuban cacti. I have lately devoted myself to the research of our Cuban Leptocereus which I have always considered very rare and interesting. Schumann only placed two *Leptocereus* in the genus *Cereus*. Berger in his treatment of Cereus proposed the Subgenus *Leptocereus* which was afterwards raised to generic rank. Britton & Rose have presented in the CACTACEAE eight species, six of which are Cuban. In my desire to send you a good and interesting description of the genus worthy of the attention of the members of the Society. I have looked up what books I could, to give new light and, of course, inquired as the best resource from kind and generous Brother Leon what he could tell me about our Cuban *Leptocereus*. His answer has been the notes that I am enclosing. What more can I say when he has gathered all the details and the result of his own experience?

I have planted in my garden five varieties, among them one collected in Puerto Padre, Oriente which seems a new species. I hope to get sooner or later *L. prostratus* and *L. sylvestris*. Both of them are far away from me; one in the eastern end and the other in the western part of the Island. We are very anxious to study and compare their flowers and fruits from which we hope something new will be learned.

I have already a bud on my *L. assurgens*. One fruit was collected last February of the species growing in Cojimar. It was a huge fruit of about three inches by two inches, very similar to the Fig. 117 of the CACTACEAE, p. 80, Vol. II, referred as *L. sylvestris*.

I had also the chance to examine another fruit very

similar to the Fig. 116, p. 80, Vol. II, of the CACTACEAE described as *L. arboreus*. This was brought from Punta Maisi by Dr. Bermudez and we placed it as *L. maxoni*. The plant I own is very similar to Fig. 115, p. 80, of the CACTACEAE. *Leptocereus* is a genus that can be considered genuinely Cuban. Of the eight species as already mentioned, six are from Cuba. In the issue of November, 1933, of the CACTUS AND SUCCULENT JOURNAL, there is a new species described by Britton as *L. grantianus* obtained in Porto Rico by Major Chapman Grant in 1932. In habit this plant resembles *L. quadricostatus* also native of Porto Rico differing in the form of flower and in their characteristic areoles. The other *Leptocereus* described in Britton and Rose is *L. weingartianus* native of Santo Domingo and Haiti.

It will take a few years to verify the comparison of the whole collection, but we hope to make a close study of all and establish exactly this genus which is of so much interest to collectors and botanists.

EMMA C. DE GIMÉNEZ LANIER, *Cuba*

LEPTOCEREUS (Berger) Britton and Rose, Contr. U. S. Nat. Herb. 12:433. 1909.

By BROTHER LEON

This genus of Britton and Rose is one of the several genera segregated from the "Cereus" of Schumann, who had lumped under one generic name over 200 species of plants that roughly conformed to the "wax candle" shape indicated by the name Cereus, in that they were all more or less columnar in form.

That this separation, first proposed by Berger as a subgenus, and raised to generic rank by Britton and Rose was and is justified is clearly indicated by the form of the Leptocerei, which are all bushy or prostrate plants, or sometimes a little tree-like, but never "wax candle" shaped.

The flowers of Leptocereus also differ greatly from the accepted Cereus flowers in that they are very short-tubed and campanulate in shape. In some species the trunk becomes terete and is covered with a hard bark, only the terminal joints being ribbed. The fruits are more or less spiny, up to 10 cm. long and vary from globose to shortly depressed.

Leptocereus assurgens (C. Wr.) Britton & Rose.

This was the first known species and is the type of the genus; it was first collected by Charles Wright, one of the chief discoverers of the Flora of Cuba, who found it in the western part of the island, the exact location not stated. Until recent years, it was common among the coral rock vegetation of the coast east and west of Havana and even in the aristocratic Vedado, a suburb of Havana, and it still may be found not far from Cojimar, east of Havana. It is called "Jijira" or "Pitahaya." It is bush-like, up to 3 meters high, the ultimate joints 2 to 3 cm. thick and 4 or 5-ribbed; the fruit is oval and about 6 cm. long; the flowers greenish-white, 5 to 6 cm. long.

Leptocereus leonii Britton and Rose.

This species was collected by the author in the Sierra de Esperon (wrongly named Sierra de Anafe in some books) in August, 1909 or 1910, at Guayabal, Havana Province, at the foot of limestone cliffs, and at that time it was in full bloom, with lots of campanulate flowers, one inch long or a little more, a beautiful pink in color, and it was immediately noted as "rare or new species." Returning later with Dr. Britton, we climbed the cliff and collected speciments, and recognized the species as new.

Years later, the author and later Dr. Pedro Burmudez, found it in a similar locality, on steep limestone cliffs, but further in the interior on the top of Sierra de Somorrostro, near Jamaica, on exposed rocks of difficult access, though very near the central road. The plants of Sierra de Somorrostro differ very little in aspect from those of Sierra de Esperon, and until good flowers from both localities be compared, the specimens are referred to as the same species.

L. leonii is a bushy plant, 3 or 4 meters high; the trunk, sometimes 15 cm. in diameter, is of heavy wood; the ultimate joints are only ½ cm. thick. The common name is "Pitahaya," a name used also in Cuba for other genera of cacti, especially when no other vernacular name is known.

Leptocereus prostratus Britton and Rose

This small species is unlike the other species of the genus in appearance. It is related to *L. Leonii* from which it differs in its prostrate habit and the scarcely crenate ribs of the branches. It was collected by the late Dr. John A. Shafer, perhaps the chief field collaborator of Dr. Britton on the monograph "Cactaceae". He found it on Sierra de la Guira, near Sumidero, west of Pinar del Rio City, in August 1912. Like *L. leonii* this species grows on high, exposed rocks and the type locality is the only one known.

Leptocereus maxonii Britton and Rose.

This species is from the far Eastern portion in Cuba, in the Baracoa region where it was collected by W. R. Maxon on a dry mountain slope. Specimens recently collected by Dr. Pedro Burmudez in Maisi, Oriente Province, seem to belong to this species. The joints are slender and 7-ribbed and the spines are yellow; this is also a bush-like cacti.

Leptocereus arboreus Britton and Rose.

This species is larger than the preceding, being tree-like, about 5 meters hight or a little more. It has ovoid, spiny fruit up to 10 cm.

Leptocereus assurgens (From Britton and Rose Vol. II, p. 79)

long; the ultimate joints of the branches are 5 to 6 cm. thick.

The most accessable locality for this species is on the roadside south of Castillo de Jagua, Cienfuegos, Santa Clara; but, as no provisions have been made to protect these particularly interesting plants, only one specimen of *L. arborus* remains in this location and this possibly will disappear. Fortunately, more plants of this species are likely to be found eastward, along the south coast of Santa Clara Province, between Cienfuegos and Trinidad.

Leptocereus sylvestris Britton and Rose.

This species and the preceding one are the largest of the genus. *L. sylvestris* may be distinguished from *L. arboreus* by the shorter, more sparsely spined fruit and broader ribs of its branches. It has been collected on the south coast of Oriente Province, at Ensenada de Mora, on the very narrow flat between the foot of Sierra Maestra and the Sea.

All of the above six species are endemic in Cuba and the only other three known species of the genus are West Indian plants.

Notes by WM. T. MARSHALL

Leptocereus quadricostatus (Bello) Britton and Rose.

This species, a native of Porto Rico, is bush-like in habit, dark green in color, and usually 4-ribbed as the name indicates. It is strongly armed, wherein it differs from the following species, the spines 1 to 4 cm. long; the greenish-white or yellowish flowers to 4 cm. long. It is easily cultivated in collections wherein it differs from the Cuban species and from *L. weingartianus*.

Leptocereus grantianus N. L. Britton.
Cact. and Succ. Journ. 5:469, 1933.

Discovered on Culobra, Puerto Rico, by Major Chapman Grant, U. S. A., in 1912, this species is easy of cultivation and is a splendid addition to any collection, the 3 to 5-ribbed, almost unarmed and decidedly velvety stems assuming a bush-like growth suggestive of *L. quadricostatus*.

Leptocereus weingartianus (Hartman) Britton and Rose.

The first specimen of this little known species in the United States have recently been imported by me from Santo Domingo where they were collected for me by First Sergeant Harry E. Hurst, an enthusiastic collector of Cacti and Orchids, who tells me that it is found in arid sections, creeping or climbing in shrubs. It so closely resembles *Selenicereus boeckmannii* from the same Island that it can be distinguished only by its absence of air roots which are present in the *Selenicereus*. *L. weingartianus* has clusters of thick tuberous roots, is 4 to 7-ribbed, and is strongly armed with numerous yellow acicular spines.

Collections

By E. C. HUMMEL

The pride of possession is often given as the incentive which urges the collectors of the world to travel to the ends of the earth to add new material to that they already have. The desire for knowledge, and subsequent self-esteem coming as a result of that knowledge, seems to have somewhat replaced the foregoing motive in recent years. The psychology of *why* may not be well understood, but the charm of a well kept collection, whether it be of sea shells, coins, or cacti cannot be denied.

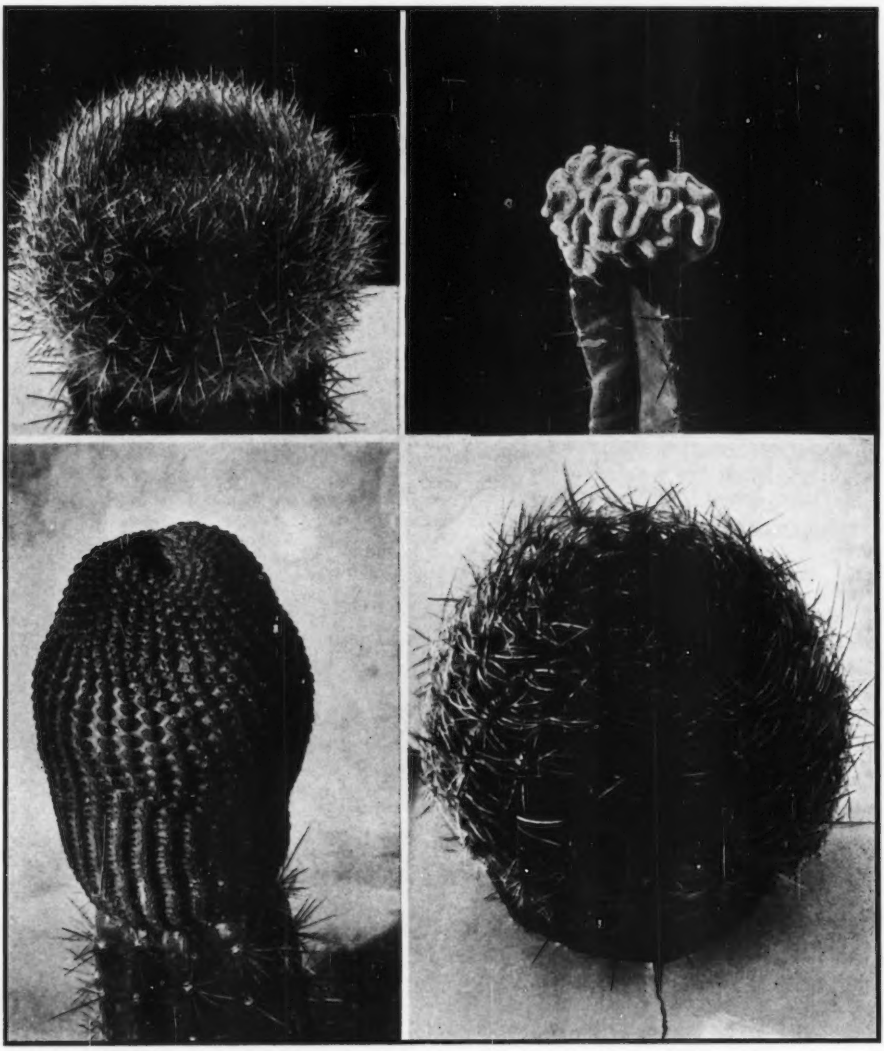
It is interesting to note the rapid advancement made by collectors of succulents in taking advantage of technical opinions of well known authorities. Not many years ago many were satisfied to accept material as received and consequently filled their glass houses with many duplicate specimens, which, under the critical eye of today's fancier would soon be replaced by additional species, authentically classified.

No longer does the collector, who wishes to specialize, restrict his plants to a certain genus or genera. The practice of bringing together plants from many genera, having some like characteristics, is becoming very popular and extremely interesting. For those who are more interested in beauty and the joy of collecting than for the scientific classification, such a group of plants gives much more variety than a collection of genera. Groups of black spined, spineless or red flowering species of numerous genera are extremely attractive. One of the most beautiful groups that may be assembled are those affected by chlorosis or commonly known as variagations. This may take in a very wide range of the CACTACEAE, as well as many degrees of variagations. It may include the beautiful *Pereskia aculeata* var. *godseffiana* which has orange-bronze leaves underneath with a buttercup yellow surface often mottled with pea-green, the red marked *Hamatocactus setispinus* and the elegant golden yellow *Chamaecereus silvestrii* var. *aurea*.

The fact that the mystery of monstrosities and fasciations has never been solved, lends an enchantment to the acquiring of this type of plant that is only partially explainable in that many hope to find the solution. There are many grades and degrees of crested growths, some that grievously try the patience of the owner as constant watchfulness is necessary to keep them from returning to normal. *Chamaecereus silvestrii* var. *crassicaulis* is a fine example in which all shoots appear normal at first, but soon become monstrose or crested; this also has a very superior flower to the better known type, having about twice as many perianth segments.

Among a collection of so called spineless cacti, (most of these have microscopic spines), *Neoporteria reichei* would be an aristocrat with the beautiful spiraled ribs being broken into regular tubercles. This was placed tentatively in *Malacocarpus* by Britton and Rose, but has since been changed to *Neoporteria* by Backeberg.

A few years ago a collection of monotypic genera was extremely interesting and there was a possibility of having twenty-seven in such a group. With the many new discoveries within the last few years the number has gradually diminished. *Oroya peruviana* is one of the most recent to lose this distinction with the discovery by Curt Backeberg of *Oroya neoperuviana*. *Matucana haynei* still holds such a position, but with this noted student once more in the field



UPPER LEFT: *Matucana haynei* B. & R.
UPPER RIGHT: *Chamaecereus silvestrii crassicaulis.*
LOWER LEFT: *Neoporteria reichii* Backbg.
LOWER RIGHT: *Oroya neo-peruviana* Backbg.

From Hummel's Exotic Gardens

who knows but that it may not long enjoy such a place.

To make a thorough study of this group of plants, travel is necessary to get the ecological view, a geological education is not out of place in studying the formation in which they are found, and an understanding of botany is, of course, necessary. Mistakes and corrections in any work in which research is still in progress should be expected, and as such corrections are published, names of plants should be cheerfully amended, with thanks to the researcher who is critical and courageous enough to admit past errors.

It will be well before preparing collections for display this summer to check on the newer nomenclature, and endeavor to follow it, taking into consideration that absolute identification cannot be ascertained without examination of herbarium material of the plant first designated under a certain name. There are untold numbers of recognized mistakes which have never been corrected. Of much interest is the correction made by Dr. Rose, who upon a visit to the herbarium of the Museum of Natural History in Paris, viewed the original material of *Pereskia bleo,* and realized it differed from that common in herbaria and collections. Later the plant prevalent here was identified as *Pereskia grandifolia.*

After describing, in the BOUNDARY SURVEY, *Escobaria tuberculosa* as *Mammillaria tuberculosa,* Engelmann visited the collection of Prince Salm, and discovered that the original specimen of *Mammillaria strobiliformis* (Sheer) was identical with his species *M. tuberculosa* and states in his corrections, "Mr. Sheer's name, having the priority, must be substituted for mine." Few of us realize that the additions and corrections of the Smithsonian Institute on the CACTUS OF MEXICO has accepted Berger's classification of *Roseocactus,* placing therein, *Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus, A. fissuratus* and *A. lloydii.* These are merely a few examples to show that vigilance is ever necessary to keep a collection correctly identified.

The CACTACEAE itself must not be considered as the beginning or end of the study of plant evolution. Before the time of Gray and Darwin, the recognition of species was governed by the popular belief that each plant was a descendent of a plant or pair of plants of definite features, which would be inherited by each and every descendent. Any variation was considered caused by hybridization. In the calculations of most of the botanists today, the evolutionary theory has supplanted the foregoing hypothesis, and it is now realized that each species, genus and family gradually merge one into another. The study of an individual species must necessarily be accompanied by the study of all closely allied species and genera as well as a general survey of the plant kingdom.

NOTE ON A COMMON OPUNTIA CREST

There has long been in cultivation, in Southern California at least, a cristate Opuntia which has gone under the popular names of *Opuntia lurida cristata* and *"the boxing glove cactus."*

The name *Opuntia lurida* is obviously in error since that is a synonym for *Opuntia tomentosa,* a Platyopuntia, and the crest in question is a Cylindropuntia. It is very obviously not *Opuntia fulgida* var. *mammillata,* to which it had been tentatively referred.

The plant has produced normal stems and flowered in my garden. A careful comparison shows it to be a cristate of *Opuntia serpentina.*

—R. W. POINDEXTER

Astrophytum capricornis var. *minor*